

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub A 1.

A computer system comprising:
first display means for displaying a main window of an application program;
second display means for displaying auxiliary information related to the application program; and
means, responsive to the application program, for separately routing the main window to the first display means and the auxiliary information to the second display means so that display of the auxiliary information does not overlap display of the main window.

Sub C1

2. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the routing means includes a multimonitor support feature inherent in an operating system of the computer system.
3. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the auxiliary information is help information from a help information data base included in the application program.
4. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the first and second display means constitute different portions of a screen on a single display device.
5. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the first and second display means constitute respective first and second physically separate display devices.
6. The system of claim 5, wherein:
the second display device is physically smaller than the first display device.
7. The system of claim 5, wherein:
the second display device has a lower resolution than the first display device.
8. The system of claim 1, wherein:
the system further comprises intercepting means for intercepting a user request; and

the routing means routes the auxiliary information to the second display means in response to the intercepting means' interception of the user request.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein:

the user request is an invocation of a help function in the application program; and
the routing means constitutes means for routing help information from a help data base in the application program to the second display means.

10. The system of claim 1, wherein:

the system further comprises means for continually monitoring an active window in the application program; and

the routing means constitutes means for automatically routing to the second display means, auxiliary information that corresponds to a window that the monitoring means determines to be the active window.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the routing means constitutes:

means for automatically routing to the second display means, help information that corresponds to a window that the monitoring means determines to be the active window.

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12.

A method for displaying auxiliary information to prevent overlap with display of a main window of an application program, the method comprising:

routing and displaying the main window of the application program to a first display means;
and

separately routing the auxiliary information to a second display means, so that display of the auxiliary information does not overlap display of the main window.

13. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the routing step includes using a multimonitor support feature inherent in an operating system of a computer system that executes the application program.

14. The method of claim 12, wherein:

the auxiliary information is help information from a help information data base included in the application program.

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15. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the first and second display means constitute different portions of a screen on a single display device.
16. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the first and second display means constitute respective first and second physically separate display devices.
17. The method of claim 16, wherein:
the second display device is physically smaller than the first display device.
18. The method of claim 16, wherein:
the second display device has a lower resolution than the first display device.
19. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the method further comprises intercepting a user request; and
the routing step includes routing the auxiliary information to the second display means in response to the interception of the user request.
20. The method of claim 19, wherein:
the user request is an invocation of a help function in the application program; and
the routing step constitutes routing help information from a help data base in the application program to the second display means.
21. The method of claim 12, wherein:
the method further comprises continually monitoring an active window in the application program; and
the routing step constitutes automatically routing to the second display means, auxiliary information that corresponds to a window that the monitoring step determines to be the active window.
22. The method of claim 21, wherein the routing step constitutes:
automatically routing to the second display means, help information that corresponds to a window that the monitoring step determines to be the active window.